

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computers, a list of people that is known to a user; determining, at the one or more computers, that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person, the actions including one or more of (1) saving a message the one or more messages from the person; (2) printing a message the one or more messages from the person; (3) moving a message the one or more messages from the person from a first folder an inbox to a second folder; and (4) leaving a message the one or more messages from the person open for a predetermined period of time;

in response to determining that the person is known to the user, adding the person to the maintained list;

accessing, at the one or more computers, the maintained list of people determined to be known to a user;

accessing, at the one or more computers, online presence information for the user;

determining, at the one or more computers, a potential receiver of the online presence information;

comparing, at the one or more computers, the potential receiver to the accessed list to determine if the potential receiver is included on the list; and

determining, at the one or more computers, whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining to not communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when the potential receiver is not included in the list.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to an instant messaging application of the potential receiver.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to display the online presence information on a web page.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to display the online presence information in member search results.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to display the online presence information in a member profile.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when a request for online presence information is received from the potential receiver.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver absent a request from the potential receiver for the online presence information.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include saving an e-mail received from the person.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include printing an e-mail received from the person.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include moving an e-mail from a first folder to a second folder.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~the first folder is an inbox folder and~~ the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person includes leaving an e-mail from the person open for a predetermined period of time.

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person further comprises inferring that a person is known to the user, wherein inferring comprises:
accessing a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

accessing a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person includes detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to determine a person is known to the user.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to label a communication from the person as spam.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to add a person to a blacklist.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to move a communication from the person to either of a spam folder or a delete folder.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
enabling the user to expressly designate a person as known to the user; and
adding the designated person to the list.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having a computer program embodied thereon for providing online presence information, the computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

maintain a list of people that is known to a user;

determine that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person, the actions including one or more of (1) saving ~~a message~~ the one or more messages from the person; (2) printing ~~a message~~ the one or more messages from the person; (3) moving ~~a message~~ the one or more messages from the person from ~~a first folder~~ an inbox to a ~~second~~ folder; and (4) leaving ~~a message~~ the one or more messages from the person open for a predetermined period of time;

in response to determining that the person is known to the user, add the person to the maintained list

access the maintained list of people determined to be known to a user;

access online presence information for the user;

determine a potential receiver of the online presence information;

compare the potential receiver to the accessed list to determine if the potential receiver is included on the list; and

determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list.

24. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine to not communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when the potential receiver is not included in the list.

25. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to an instant messaging application of the potential receiver.

26. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to display the online presence information on a web page.

27. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to display the online presence information in member search results.

28. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to display the online presence information in a member profile.

29. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when a request for online presence information is received from the potential receiver.

30. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein, to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver absent a request from the potential receiver for the online presence information.

31-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 23 wherein ~~the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.~~

36-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 23 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine that a person is known to the user further comprises instructions for causing the computer to:

access a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

access a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

40. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 23 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to determine that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to determine a person is known to the user.

41. (Original) The medium of claim 40 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to report a communication from the person as spam.

42. (Original) The medium of claim 40 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to add a person to a blacklist.

43. (Original) The medium of claim 40 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to move a communication from the person to either of a spam folder or a delete folder.

44. (Original) The medium of claim 23 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to:

enable the user to expressly designate a person as known to the user; and
add the designated person to the list.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing online presence information:

means for maintaining a list of people that is known to a user;

means for determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person, the actions including one or more of (1) saving a message the one or more messages from the person; (2) printing a message the one or more messages from the person; (3) moving a message the one or more messages from the person from a first folder an inbox to a second folder; and (4) leaving a message the one or more messages from the person open for a predetermined period of time;

means for in response to determining that the person is known to the user, adding the person to the maintained list;

means for accessing the maintained list of people known to a user;

means for accessing online presence information for the user;

means for determining a potential receiver of the online presence information;

means for comparing the potential receiver to the maintained list to determine if the potential receiver is included on the list; and

means for determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list.

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining that a person is known to the user by accessing a contact list of the user.

48. (Cancelled).

49. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 23 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing the computer to:

determine that a person is known to the user by accessing a contact list of the user.

50. (New) A method of providing online presence information, the method comprising:

maintaining, on one or more computers, a list of people or addresses that are authorized to receive online presence information of a user based, at least in part, on

one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person or address, the actions including one or more of (1) saving the one or more messages from the person or address; (2) printing the one or more messages from the person or address; (3) moving the one or more messages from the person or address from an inbox to a folder; and (4) leaving the one or more messages from the person or address open for a predetermined period of time;

accessing, at the one or more computers, online presence information for the user;

determining, at the one or more computers, a potential receiver of the online presence information;

comparing, at the one or more computers, the potential receiver to the list of authorized people or addresses; and

determining, at the one or more computers, whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the folder comprises a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

52. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein maintaining, on one or more computers, the list of people or addresses that are authorized to receive online presence information of the user is further based, at least in part, on detecting user

actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to determine the person or address is known to the user.

53. (New) A system of providing online presence information, the system comprising:

a processor of executing a set of instructions; and

a storage medium for storing the set of instruction, the instructions including instructions for:

maintaining, on one or more computers, a list of people or addresses that are authorized to receive online presence information of a user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person or address, the actions including one or more of (1) saving the one or more messages from the person or address; (2) printing the one or more messages from the person or address; (3) moving the one or more messages from the person or address from an inbox to a folder; and (4) leaving the one or more messages from the person or address open for a predetermined period of time;

accessing, at the one or more computers, online presence information for the user;

determining, at the one or more computers, a potential receiver of the online presence information;

comparing, at the one or more computers, the potential receiver to the list of authorized people or addresses; and

determining, at the one or more computers, whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list.

54. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the folder comprises a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

55. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein maintaining, on one or more computers, the list of people or addresses that are authorized to receive online presence information of the user is further based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to determine the person or address is known to the user.